

## A VIPER OUT OF THE HEAT

### Acts 28:1-10

**Acts 28:1 Melita:** Malta-familiar to sailors Ruled by Rome. Greek: honey: Landed at St. Paul's Bay.

**Acts 28:2 Barbarous People:** rude speech. Cultured people. Language: African (Phoenician dialect). .

May have died from hypothermia if islanders not started fire.

**Acts 28:3** Paul's servant mentality.... *Viper*: poisonous serpent. Hibernating in wood pile.

**Acts 28:4** Obvious to people that many were prisoners. Assumed Paul to be murderer.

Their philosophy: when divine vengeance takes over, a man is often punished in a manner similar to offence.

Phillips: *The islanders had a ready explanation, one that could only have occurred to those who did not know Paul – he was a murderer. He had escaped the sea but not the gods. Neptune had failed to take him, so Nemesis had taken him. It was a case of poetic justice.*

*Viper* – fastened to hand. Therefore, he must've murdered someone with hand.

**Acts 28:5** *And he shook off the beast ...* Mark 16:17-18

Not crisis. God in charge. ... Looking at circumstance out of peripheral.

Faith in faithfulness of awesome God! God promised he would make it to Rome!

**Acts 28:6** The Maltese people watching in amazement

God uses miracle to authenticate apostle.

People misinterpret message.

**Acts 28:7** *In the same quarters* Home of governor, Publius

**Acts 28:8 Fever—*bloody flux*.** Dysentery; gastric fever accompanied by dysentery... caused by infected goat milk.

**Acts 28:9 *Came, and were healed*:** God brought people to Paul.

**Acts 28:10 *Honoured us*.** Placed great value on us. Expressed appreciation!

### I. Power of Influence

A. Man of Prayer **28:8** prayed for father of Publius. 16:25 20:36 21:5

B. Man of Spiritual Power. Filled with Holy Spirit. 13:9-11; 14:8; Ch 16

### II. Boldness

- ❖ Prayed in front of 275 passengers.
- ❖ Not cocky or proud, obnoxious and rude.
- ❖ Not looking for a fight
- ❖ Preached on steps of temple...steps of castle as Jews shouting and throwing dust into air.
- ❖ To crewmen and captain of ship, "*Ye should've hearkened!*"

### III. Right Focus. Expectations on God, not man.

- Kicked out of cities...
- Taken advantage of by politicians
- Ignored by Jewish believers in Jerusalem
- Put in prison...
- Beaten and left for dead.
- Shipwrecked.

**Acts 20:24 *But none of these things move me,...***

What would it take for you to quit?